

Church Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for 1910.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Church
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the health and mortality of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1910.

The area of the Township, exclusive of water, is 528 acres.

The population of the Township at the middle of 1910 was estimated at 7,000, at the census of 1901 it was 6,463.

BIRTHS.

During the year 172 births were registered, of which 86 were boys and a like number of girls, producing a birth rate of 24.5. This is an increase on the preceding year when the births numbered 153 and the rate was .22. 4 of the children born in 1910 were illegitimate.

DEATHS.

The deaths, including 13 residents who died in institutions outside the district, numbered 112—63 males and 49 females, equivalent to a death rate of 16, which is a fractional increase on the death rate for 1909, when it was 15.9.

12 deaths were due to heart disease, 10 to pneumonia, 6 to bronchitis, 6 to premature birth, 5 each to cancer and phthisis, while 4 were due to diarrhoea, and 2 to accidents.

32 deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, 7 between 1 and 5 years, 2 between 5 and 15 years, 6 between 15 and 25 years, 47 between 25 and 65 years, and 18 over 65 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The 32 deaths under the age of 1 year are equal to 30.5 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages, and give an infantile death rate of 186 per 1000 births. This rate compares very unfavourably with the figures of the previous year, when the infant deaths numbered 16 and the rate was 104.

It is the highest infantile death rate there has been in this Township since 1904, when it reached 192, and it is a source of regret that the past year should show such a lapse into the old state of affairs as regards infantile mortality. The practice of so many mothers, some unfortunately of necessity, hurrying back to their work in the factory so soon after childbirth, is undoubtedly responsible in some degree, as by taking their babies out to nurse in the early hours of the morning, mothers expose their children, not only to the risk of chill but also to the dangers of artificial, and in many instances, of improper feeding.

So long as the present system continues, we in Church must in great measure rely upon favourable climatic conditions for a low rate of infant deaths.

6 infant deaths were due to pneumonia, 6 to premature birth, 3 to diarrhœa, and 2 each to enteritis and bronchitis, while 1 was caused by accident.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Zymotic diseases caused 8 deaths, of which 4 were due to diarrhœa, 2 to membranous croup, and 1 each to whooping cough and enteric fever. The zymotic death rate is 1.1. In 1909 it was 0.85, but in that year there were no deaths from diarrhœa.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

16 deaths were due to respiratory diseases, viz: 10 to pneumonia, and 6 to bronchitis. The respiratory death rate is 2.3, which compares very favourably with the rate of 1909, when it was 3.15.

PHTHISIS.

Phthisis was responsible for 5 deaths, and gave a rate of 0.71.

CANCER.

Cancer caused 5 deaths, and gave a rate of 0.71. In 1909 there were 9 deaths from this disease, and the rate was 1.28.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 43 cases of infectious diseases were notified, viz: 17 cases of scarlet fever, 11 each of enteric fever and erysipelas, and 2 each of puerperal fever and membranous croup. 2 cases of membranous croup and 1 of enteric fever ended fatally.

During the year, ophthalmia neonatorum was added to the list of notifiable diseases.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage is dealt with in a thoroughly efficient manner at the Coppy Clough Joint Outfall Sewage Works.

The work of sewerage Fox Street, with a connection to the Outfall Works at Coppy Clough, was completed during the year, and a nuisance from river pollution has thereby been remedied.

The question of laying a new main sewer for the Dill Hall District from the Clayton-le-Moors boundary has been considered by the Council, and it is expected that the work will be proceeded with without delay.

3060 loads of refuse were removed to the "tip" by the employees of your Council, and the scavenging has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

97 closets have been converted from the pail to the water flush system, and 24 new closets of the latter type have been established.

MILLS AND WORKSHOPS.

The mills and workshops have been systematically inspected, special attention being given to their sanitary conveniences. Notices were served to rectify matters where necessary, and in all cases these have been complied with.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughterhouses (3 in number) have been regularly inspected and found in moderate condition. In October last I condemned the carcase of a tuberculous cow which was afterwards destroyed. Under the present conditions the thorough inspection of the meat supply of the district is almost impossible, and in order to obviate this difficulty and ensure proper supervision of all carcasses, I strongly recommend this Council to consider the advisability of erecting a Public Abattoir.

FARMS.

The farms in the district have been visited, and the cowsheds and dairies, with the exception of some small alterations which are necessary, are in good condition.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the summer, especially in the month of June, numerous complaints were made to the Surveyor and myself about the quality of the water supplied by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board, and undoubtedly the consumers in Church had reasonable grounds for complaining. In June the water had quite an obnoxious smell, somewhat fishy in nature, while its appearance was hardly such as one would expect to find in a water which had been properly treated by filtration. Two years ago a similar state of things prevailed, and surely it is possible for the Water Board to take steps whereby the periodic supply of a water, which is alike offensive to the organs of taste and smell, may be prevented in future.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B.

February 9th, 1911.



Church Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

District of Church,

For the year ended December
31st, 1910.

Jackson, Typ. & Engraving.

